

OPC Bulletin

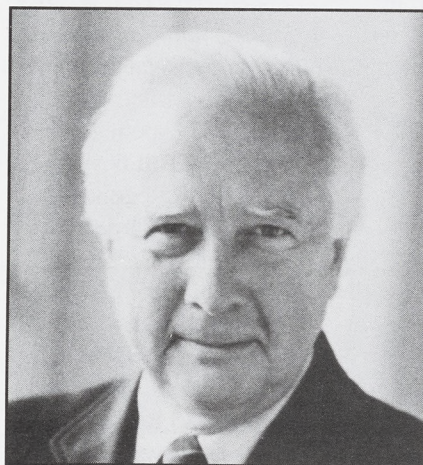
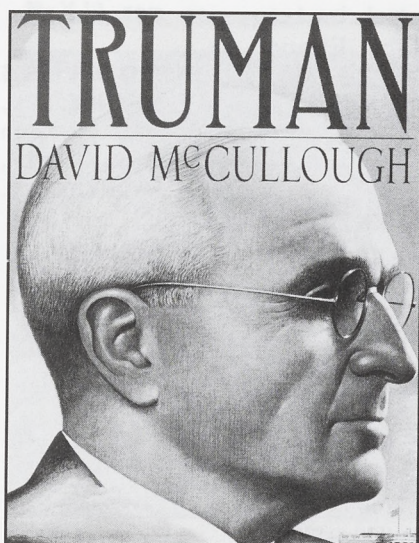
Truman's Biographer Oct. 22

By Bill Holstein

One of the most bizarre twists to this year's presidential battle is that both Bill Clinton and George Bush have sought to wrap themselves in the aura of Harry Truman, the 33rd president. Both men have invoked Truman's name and made train and bus whistle-stop tours in the American heartland to convince voters that they, alone, possess the Truman legacy. Americans, it seems, have a hunger for leadership.

That's why the OPC is so pleased to present David McCullough, the historian and author of *Truman* on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 5:15 p.m. at 3 W. 51st St.

The biography has been on the *Times* best-sellers list for weeks and is one of the most talked about books of the sea-



David McCullough

son. He will be introduced by Ray Price, OPC treasurer and former editorial page editor of the *Herald Tribune* and chief speechwriter for Richard Nixon.

Ten years in the writing, this book captures Truman as a more complex, informed, and determined man than ever imagined. Even though he was an obscure vice presidential pick from Missouri and rose to the presidency only on FDR's death, it was Truman who made the decision to drop the A-bomb on Japan. Truman was responsible for the Marshall Plan, NATO, and the amazing Berlin Airlift. He decided to intervene in Korea and later fired General MacArthur.

Because he understands what made Truman a leader, McCullough can comment, with authority, on whether Clinton or Bush or Perot is most entitled to cloak himself in Harry's mantle.

His remarks will start at 5:15 p.m. in the Solarium at the Women's National Republican Club, 3 W. 51st St.. Copies of the book will be for sale and McCullough will autograph his book.

The program is free, but those wishing to attend must make reservations with Mary Novick. (983-4655)

It's going to be one of our best programs. Don't miss it.

Europe Split On Clinton And Bush

By Camille Cunningham

Europe is not so enthusiastically backing the Republicans in this Presidential election year as it has in the past. That was the collective opinion of the panel that spoke at the September 15th OPC luncheon "Does Europe Want Bush or Clinton?"

Annie Cohen-Solal, French cultural attaché in New York and author of an upcoming book on U.S.-French relations; Jurek Martin, chief Washington correspondent for the *Financial Times*; and Mitja Mersol, U.S. correspondent for the Slovenian newspaper *DELO*, were panelists. Nicholas Wahl, director of New York University's Institute of French Studies, moderated the discussion.

"In the past, the Republican was the safest bet for Europeans," said Wahl. "Every nickel the U.S. spent on defense, was one less a European would. But things have changed with the end of the Cold War. Europeans now favor Clinton."

But the break from tradition may be subtle. Martin contended that Europeans weren't seeing Clinton as much different from Bush. "They don't necessarily expect a lot from Clinton, but they expect less from Bush," said Martin. "The Bush Administration has run out of ideas. Europeans don't care too much if Bush or Clinton is in the White House as long as one provides renewal."

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BUSINESS WEEK

DIERDORFF TO RETIRE

John Dierdorff, managing editor of *Business Week*, has announced he will retire this February after 36-years with the magazine. He was managing editor for 15 years. **Mark Morrison**, who is now an assistant managing editor, will inherit the position.

COLUMBUS DISCOVERED

NEWMAN SEEKS HIS REMAINS

OPC member **Joseph Newman**, has written and produced a documentary exploring the whereabouts of the remains of Christopher Columbus. "The Feuding Tombs of Chistopher Columbus" investigates the dispute between the Dominican Republic and Spain over the location of the explorer's bones.

The show was set to air on The Discovery Channel Oct. 11th, 10 p.m. (ET) at the time the Bulletin went to press. The National Press Club held a preview screening of

the new program in Washington D.C. on October 9th.

TIME-LIFE BOOKS

HELGA KOHL'S COMMISSION

Longtime member **Helga Kohl** just completed her assignment as lead researcher/special contributor to two volumes of Time-Life Books' Lost Civilizations series, *Ancient Egypt* and *Bronze Age of the Aegean*.

Kohl, formerly of *Time* magazine, has been contributing to Time-Life Books on a wide range of subjects for the last several years from Athens, Bonn, and Alexandria, Virginia. She now divides her time between Washington, D.C. and the island of Lesbos in Greece.

FRANKEL-Y SPEAKING

AUTHORS WWII MEMOIRS

Stanley A. Frankel, OPC member and award-winning historian, has written a 50th anniversary memoir of World War II. *Frankel-*

y Speaking About WWII in the South Pacific is a highly personal account of military life in the Pacific as experienced by Ohio's 37th Division, 148th Regiment, which was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for the capture of Manila. Paperback copies are available for \$13 by mail to Woods Books, 185 E. Hartsdale Ave., Hartsdale, NY 10530.

TOKYO CLUB

NEW OFFICERS, RENOVATIONS

Currently debating proposed renovations on the one and a half floors it occupies in an office building overlooking the Imperial Palace in central Tokyo is the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan. the club elected new officers in June for the year starting July 1:

President, **Clayton Jones**, *The Christian Science Monitor*; Vice presidents, **Richard Read**, *The Oregonian*, and **Leslie Helm**, *The Los Angeles Times*; secretary, **Bob Neff**, *Business Week*; treasurer, **Thomas Dygard**, *The AP*; directors, **Toshio**

Aritake, *The Daily Yomiuri*; **Anne Pepper**, freelance; **Weng Kin Kwan**, *The Straits Times* (Singapore); and **Jean Pearce**, freelance.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

JEAN BAER

A memorial service was held for **Jean Baer** Thursday evening, October 8th, at the Williams Club in Manhattan. Baer, a long-time OPC member and secretary of the club, died of cancer July 1. She was 69.

Anita Diamant, Baer's friend and literary agent for over 30 years, spoke at the service. Other speakers included OPC President **Larry Smith**; Baer's husband, **Herb Fensterheim**; her publisher, **Eleanor Rosen**; and good friends **Jean Wilson** and **Julia Perlas**.

DOWNHOLD CLUB

REUNION

The Downhold Club is having a reunion Nov. 13th at the Park Terrace in Manhattan. Call Fred Ferguson, (212) 832-9400.

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Europeans

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Mersol agreed. "Many think of Bush as representing the past and Clinton as free of clichés," he said.

And, like Americans pushing for a stronger focus on domestic issues, "Europe has its own fish to fry," Martin noted. Pointing to the recent French referendum on European union, Italian devaluation, and reduction of German interest rates, Martin called this the "Europeans' year for Europe" and called Clinton the "least threatening candidate."

He's not a protectionist or an isolationist and he doesn't differ substantially from the Bush Administration," said Martin. "But the European Community is discontented with Bush for a number of reasons."

Cohen-Solal noted that the U.S. presidential election was "not quite the first priority" for the French either. She attributed this partly to the French lack of understanding of the American political system and partly to what she called the "deep cultural divide" between the two countries. Her examples evoked



Jurek Martin



Annie Cohen-Solal

some laughter. "We don't see why private life invades the election," Cohen-Solal said. "And this Murphy Brown thing seems so strange for us."

However, Cohen-Solal said she did feel the U.S. and France were at a crossroads in their understanding of one another. "Old stereotypes of America are changing," she said. "French thinkers are now seen as pragmatic."

But she criticized Bush's unequal funding on arts exchange programs with France, saying that the French Government paid for nearly all French dance companies which traveled to the U.S. to perform and American companies that performed in France. She also took issue with Bush's stance with the National Endowment for the Arts funding controversial artists such as Robert Mapplethorpe, who came under fire for his homo-erotic photography. "Artists are expected to be provocative in France," she said. "We would like the cultural exchange to be more open. The American President should have an interest."

How would a Democratic victory affect Europe? There was speculation that as relationships grow more tenuous in central Europe, America will turn isolationist, retreating into domestic is-



Mitja Mersol

sues if Clinton is elected.

"Will it be the new isolated America?" Mersol asked. "The U.S. has acted as a court of appeals for nations in Europe. It is a political vacuum that would be dangerous if not filled in."

But Mersol didn't feel that would happen. "America will stay in Europe whether Bush or Clinton is in the White House," he said. "For its own interests it will stay in Europe." Referring to the fighting in former Yugoslavia, Mersol said, "America is playing the superpower role through the U.N. There will just be new names for new situations."

Europeans are inclining toward Clinton, the panelists agreed.

Whitman Bassow, OPC board member who lived in Europe for 15 years, observed: "Whatever happens this fall will have definite impact on Europeans, though not many of them will be staying up until 4 a.m. waiting for the results of the polls."

The panel discussion was organized by program chairman Bill Holstein, editor of *Business Week's* international edition, and program committee members Jacqueline Simon, associate editor of *Politique Internationale*, Andrew Nibley, editor of Reuters, and Steve Rago of the *New York Times*.

Truman Biographer Oct. 22

Tuesday, October 20th, 5:30 p.m. Board of Governors. Members of the board R.S.V.P. 983-4655.

Thursday, October 22nd, 5:15 p.m. David McCullough, author of the bestselling biography Truman. See story, Page 1. Women's National Republican Club, 3 West 51st. Free. Reservations: Mary Novick, 983-4655.

Freedom Of the Press

Norman Schorr, chairman of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee, has protested to officials in India, Peru and Turkey on behalf of journalists who suffered human rights violations, and, in worst cases, lost their lives:

- Pedro Yauri, Peruvian journalist, reportedly beaten and kidnapped.
- Magno Sosa Rojas, Peruvian journalist, received death threats, detained and accused of terrorism.
- Fatma Gulton Sesan, Turkish newspaper owner, detained and tortured.
- Burhan Karadeniz, Turkish journalist, attacked and feared paralyzed.
- Huseyin Deniz, Turkish journalist, murdered
- M.L. Manchanda, director of state-run radio in India, kidnapped and murdered by rebel group

Press Center Now Open In Moscow

The Russian-American Press and Information Center was established in Moscow in August of this year to help the international mass media confront the challenges of reporting developments in the post-Soviet era.

The new organization is a joint project of the Center for War, Peace, and the News Media of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at New York University and the Institute for U.S.A. and Canada Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The directors of the two cooperating institutions, Robert Karl Manoff of NYU, and Dr. Georgi Arkadeyevich Arbatov, serve as co-chairmen.

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Situated in the center of Moscow at 2/3 Khlebny Pereulok, the Russian-American Center, while primarily designed to serve journalists, will provide information to anyone interested. Individuals or organizations may join.

Membership includes the use of the Center's library, preferential admission to Center seminars, a subscription to the Center's weekly bulletin, discounted access to computerized information, and participation in other Center activities.

For information on joining contact the Center directly at the above address, or through the Center for War, Peace, and the News Media at the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at NYU.

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